

LOUISIANA SHRIMP TASK FORCE REPORT

February 23, 2010

The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force was established by Governor Bobby Jindal through Executive Order BJ 09-13. The Task Force is charged with examining the LA shrimp industry as a whole, identifying problems prevalent in the industry and developing plans or proposing policies which can improve the economic sustainability of the industry. Membership includes executive staff from the offices of the Governor and Attorney General, the departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Health and Hospitals, Agriculture and Forestry, Economic Development, the Louisiana Recovery Authority and Workforce Commission.

Robert J. Barham, Chairman	LDWF
Dr. Mike Strain, Co-Chairman	LDAF
David Guilbeau	LDHH
Kelsey Short	LDED
Kris Van Orsdel	LRA
Cathy Breaux	LA Workforce Commission
Jody Montelaro	Governor's Office
Stacie Deblieux	Attorney General's Office

Executive Order BJ 09-13 allows the Task Force to designate additional persons as ex-officio members as deemed necessary and prudent, especially persons representing the shrimp industry. Ex-Officio Members include:

Dr. John Finley	LSU Dept. of Food Science
Ewell Smith	LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board
Mark Schexnayder	LSU SeaGrant
Clint Guidry	Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel
Danny Babin	Shrimp Processor Advisory Panel

The Task Force has met eight times since September 8, 2009 (September 8, 14, and 28, 2009, October 26, 2009, November 16, 2009, December 7, 2009, January 6 and January 27, 2010) and authorized the creation of a Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel and Shrimp Processor Advisory Panel in an effort to gather appropriate input from the shrimp industry and those who may be affected by decisions made by these agencies. The LDWF has recruited panel members, facilitated proceedings of these meetings including development of news releases, agendas, correspondence, recordings, preparation of meeting minutes and posted much of this information to the LDWF website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel Members include:

Nicholas Alfonso	St. Bernard Parish
George Barisich	St. Bernard Parish
Pete Gerica	Orleans Parish
Jerome Jones	Plaquemines Parish
Acy Cooper	Plaquemines Parish
A.J. Fabre	Jefferson Parish
Clint Guidry	Jefferson Parish
Scott St. Pierre	Lafourche Parish
Tommy Cheramie	Lafourche Parish
Ronnie Anderson	Terrebonne Parish
Lance Nacio	Terrebonne Parish
Timmy Truong	Vermilion Parish
Bryan Crawford	Cameron Parish

Shrimp Processor Advisory Board Members include:

Gerard Thomassie	LA Shrimp & Packing Co.
Jeff Floyd	Gulf Crown Sfd., Inc.
Lance Authement	Hi-Seas of Dulac, Inc.
Kristen Baumer	Paul Piazza & Sons, Inc.
Andrew Blanchard	Indian Ridge Shrimp Co.
Andy Gibson	Tidelands Sfd. Co.
Randy Pearce	DoRan Sea-Pack Co.
Danny Babin	Gulf Fish, Inc.
Jeff Scott	Gulf Island Shrimp & Sfd. Co.
Shep Baumer, Jr.	Bayou Shrimp Processors, Inc.
Dean Blanchard	Dean Blanchard Sfd. Co.
Paul Poon	Lafitte Frozen Sfd. Co.

The Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel and Shrimp Processor Advisory Panels met independently on September 21, 2009 and each adopted a series of motions recommending certain actions for consideration by the Task Force. The Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel met again on October 26, 2009 January 6, 2009 and January 27, 2010 and adopted additional motions for Task Force consideration. The representative of the Shrimp Processors Advisory panel presented an additional series of recommendations to the Task Force on October 26, 2009.

The following is a brief summary of motions made by the Shrimp Task Force and recommendations offered by the Advisory Panels to date. Motions and recommendations are identified by date and number without any assigned ranking or priority.

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **September 8, 2009**

- 1) Appointment of a 13 member Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel.**

The LDWF recruited panel members who met on Sep 21 and Oct 26 and elected Clint Guidry as their representative to the Shrimp Task Force.

- 2) Appointment of a 13 member Shrimp Processor Advisory Panel.**

The LDWF recruited panel members who met on Sep 21 and elected Danny Babin as their representative to the Shrimp Task Force.

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **September 14, 2009**

- 3) Contact NOAA fisheries about release of Cooperative Research Survey funds upon receipt of initial review for completeness pending proper approval of the legislative auditors.**

The State Legislative Auditor met with LDWF staff and expressed that he was not in favor of allowing LDWF to bypass checks designed to ensure completeness of Cooperative Research Surveys as a means of getting fisheries disaster assistance funds out to participants more quickly. In response, the Task Force adopted a motion to end any further discussions concerning this request.

- 4) Draft letters addressed to major shrimp buyers encouraging them to purchase and re-sell Louisiana shrimp.**

Letters mailed to the CEO's of twelve national supermarket chains, October 2009. A copy is posted to the LDWF website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

- 5) Government issued mandate that state agencies buy Louisiana shrimp.**

Letters to Louisiana state agencies requesting they serve Louisiana shrimp in public institutions were mailed, October 2009. A response from the Office of State Purchasing on how state agencies have been participating was received on October 21. An additional

response received from the Department of Public Safety Copies stated that the agency is purchasing approximately 600 pounds of shrimp each month for its cafeteria operations and the vendors assure that these are exclusively Louisiana shrimp. Copies of each letter are posted to the LDWF website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

- **September 28, 2009**

6) Development of voluntary inspection guidelines for the shrimp industry.

See number 11. The LDAF volunteered to take the lead in development of voluntary guidelines for the shrimp industry.

7) Identify the numbers of shrimp (poundage or count) in cold storage (from LA processors) currently in holding facilities.

Representatives of the American Shrimp Processors Association have indicated to the LDWF they would provide this estimate.

8) Identify the number of employees working for Louisiana shrimp processors.

Representatives of the American Shrimp Processors Association have indicated they would provide this information.

- **October 12, 2009**

9) Examine state shrimp management activities and include these in LDWF committee discussions.

Mark Schexnayder, Task Force member with LSU SeaGrant plans to begin examining state shrimp management opportunities by reviewing findings of the Select Shrimp Council's 1998 Report with the Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel at their next meeting.

10) Formulate a definition of Louisiana shrimp for purposes of branding.

See Number 46. A Notice of Intent concerning a rule which would establish standards for the packaging of shrimp in or sold in Louisiana has been signed by Secretary Barham. It is anticipated that the final rule would be promulgated on or before June, 1, 2010.

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **October 28, 2009**

11) Present voluntary certification guidelines to the Shrimp Task Force for the next meeting.

See Number 6. The LDAF presented an outline of a “Louisiana Voluntary Shrimp Harvester/Processor Program” at the November 16 Task Force meeting. The Task Force adopted a motion endorsing the recommendations set up in the LA Voluntary Shrimp Harvester/Processor Program as a system that can benefit the shrimp industry from harvesters through the state’s processing system. The presentation is available on the LDWF website at.

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

The LSU AgCenter has submitted a draft outlining the development and implementation of a Louisiana certified shrimp program for review by the Task Force.

- 12) Set up meeting with the Attorney General’s Office and state legislators to draft legislation prohibiting and establishing penalties for the false advertisement of Louisiana shrimp and identify state statutes and LDAF and LDHH rules and regulations pertaining to seafood testing and recommendations developed by the Seafood Safety Task Force in order to develop comprehensive and enforceable regulations.**

The LDWF will be setting up a meeting with representatives from the Attorney General’s Office, LDWF, LDHH and LDAF.

- 13) Identify existing state or LDED programs that provide economic incentives or develop new legislation which provides funding for improvements to and value added processing facilities.**

See Number 38. The Task Force moved to endorse LDED’s offer to identify existing state or LDED programs that provide economic incentives or develop new legislation which provides funding for packaging facilities and value added processing facilities.

- 14) Endorse creation of legislation authorizing a new Shrimp Task Force.**

See Number 57. This action can be combined into the development of new legislation which establishes a new Shrimp Task Force, similar to the Oyster Task Force. The Task Force would be under the LSPMB and charged with shrimp promotion and marketing activities and development of recommendations for state management activities. This action would also satisfy a recommendation from the Processors Advisory Panel for establishment of a separate shrimp promotion and marketing board devoted to domestic shrimp promotion. With assistance from legislative staff, the LDWF has developed a draft bill which has been reviewed by the Harvester and Processor Advisory Panels and the Task Force.

- 15) Set-up meetings with the Louisiana Restaurant Association to identify options or programs which would advertise the availability of Louisiana shrimp.**

See Numbers 39, 40 and 73. The LDWF will set up meetings with Jim Funk, Louisiana Restaurant Association, Danny Babin, American Shrimp Processors Association, LDAF

Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain, LSPMB and others to identify options or programs which would advertise the availability of Louisiana Shrimp.

16) Support LSPMB to work with Milling Benson and Associates to develop a certification program for Louisiana shrimp.

The LSPMB has been exploring funding sources and options to retain Milling and Associates and staff from the LDED have also spoken with Milling. The LSPMB will provide written updates addressing all four components of the certification program at Task Force meetings. A presentation on branding developed by Milling, Benson Woodward and Associates is available on the LDWF website at

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

Milling Benson Woodward, LLP has submitted a draft contract which would provide legal services associated with clearance of proposed certification marks and/or trademarks with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and legal advice about establishing and components necessary for a certification program.

17) Request the Secretary of LDWF to move forward with shrimp packaging/labeling rule making process for Louisiana shrimp.

See Numbers 10 and 46. A Notice of Intent concerning a rule which would establish standards for the packaging of shrimp in or sold in Louisiana has been signed by Secretary Barham. It is anticipated that the final rule would be promulgated on or before June, 1, 2010.

18) Identify how much federal disaster assistance monies are available and would be eligible under federal regulations for use in shrimp promotion and marketing activities.

SUP 1 – Fisheries Disaster Assistance Supplemental Funding (EDRP 1) – Katrina/Rita (NOAA Grant Number NA06NMF4540319). No funds are available for shrimp promotion and marketing. This activity was not included in the congressional authorization.

SUP 2 - Fisheries Disaster Assistance Supplemental Funding (EDRP 2) - Katrina/Rita (NOAA Grant Number NA07NMF4540373) \$1,293,909 was granted to the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board for “Domestic Product Marketing, Promotion and Testing of Louisiana Wild-Caught Seafood”. \$3.24 million in unspent funds remain in the Commercial Fishery Assistance Payments program. (This excludes the remaining amount obligated for TED/BRD compliance.) The unspent funds are currently targeted to be paid to commercial fishers, dealers and vessel owners who previously received funding under this program.

SUP 3 – Fisheries Reimbursement Program – Gustav/Ike (NOAA Grant Number NA09NMF4520024) Gustav & Ike funds are not distributed by fishery share. LDWF does not consider any of the funds unobligated at this time. LDWF has chosen to retain a buffer of approximately 1 million dollars as a “Contingency” for unforeseen events.

19) Request the LDWF economic section to conduct an economic analysis of an excise tax increase on shrimp barrel price and report back to the Task Force.

See Number 58. An analysis of shrimp excise tax collection and potential revenue generated by excise tax increases was presented by LDWF economists at the November 16 Task Force meeting. The presentation is available on the LDWF website at.

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/shrimptaskforce/>

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **November 16, 2009**

20) Adopt the recommendations set-up in the Louisiana Voluntary Shrimp Harvester/Processor Program as a system that can benefit the shrimp industry from harvesters through the state's processing system.

See Numbers 6, 11, 23, 42. No action required.

21) As part of the Louisiana voluntary inspection program, the state's commodity market programs including the LSPMB and LDAF play key roles in defining marketing strategies which benefit the shrimp industry.

This Task Force motion requires an action step.

22) Request LDWF to take the Shrimp Processor AP recommendations and develop a list of actions for Task Force consideration.

LDWF is working on these.

23) Request \$1 million in state general funds for an inspection/certification program for seafood.

This Task Force motion requires an action step.

24) Request drafting a letter in response to a Wall Street Journal article before the next meeting of the Task Force to be circulated for comments among Task Force members via email.

The LDAF submitted a letter addressed to the editor of the Wall Street Journal in response to the article. An electronic draft was circulated among members for comment before the letter was finalized and mailed. A copy of the letter can be found at the following link to the LDWF website:
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/fishing/shrimptaskforce/Draft%20letter%20to%20WSJ.pdf>

Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel Recommendations

- **September 21, 2009**

25) Legislation to limit imports when the economic situation lowers prices to unprofitable level for Louisiana shrimpers.

Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

26) Support renewal of the current shrimp anti-dumping petition which comes up in February, 2010.

See Number 62. Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

27) Support a new World Trade Organization Compliant Byrd Amendment.

See Number 64. Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

28) Legislation to place the costs of testing imported shrimp on the importing company.

See Number 29. Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

29) Provide additional funding for testing and enforcement related to imported shrimp and raise import standards to the level of the EU.

See Number 28. Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

30) Contact LA congressional delegation and delegation in other domestic shrimp producing states requesting they contact U.S. Customs and urge them to collect all tariff money.

See Number 31. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

31) Contact LA congressional delegation and delegation in other domestic shrimp producing states requesting them to urge U.S. Commerce to investigate and prosecute companies found guilty of shipping through non-tariff countries.

See Number 30. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

32) Request assistance from federal authorities to monitor and investigate the volume and potential health risks of imported shrimp entering the country.

See Numbers 28 and 29. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

33) Request the state's congressional delegation to enact federal legislation to develop a subsidy program for domestic shrimp producers.

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

34) Request the Task Force to support legislation bringing U.S. import standards up to EU standards of testing.

See Numbers 28, 29 and 32. Assigned to LDAF – federal legislation/action.

35) Legislation to put shrimp industry under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Task Force moved to end further discussion on this recommendations as it would neither streamline government nor save money since, for example, both Fisheries and Wildlife have enforcement agents that would now be two forces rather than one and double the workforce.

36) Seek state inspection of imported shrimp through LDHH under the sanitary code and enact new legislation allowing the LDAF to test seafood products.

See Number 28.

37) Work with the Attorney General's Office to use laws presently in place and enact new legislation to fill in loopholes to discourage and limit re-boxing of imported shrimp into domestic packaging.

This recommendation is being addressed through Numbers 10 and 12.

38) Provide funding for necessary improvements to allow for packaging facilities and value added processing facilities.

See Number 13.

39) In cooperation with the LA Restaurant Association, require LA restaurants to post where there shrimp comes from.

See Number 40. This recommendation is being addressed through Number 15.

40) Amend legislation requiring restaurants to identify country of origin for all imported shrimp and identify whether or not they serve Louisiana shrimp.

See Number 28. This recommendation is being addressed through Number 15

- 41) Urge LDHH to increase testing of imported shrimp to the state of Louisiana and urge the governor to provide adequate funding and manpower.**

See Numbers 28, 29, 30, 34 and 36.

- 42) Provide funding for a “branding program set-up properly and protected under the federal “Lanham Act” and ensure that any price increases gained by this effort get passed down to the fisherman.**

See Number 46. This recommendation is being addressed through Numbers 6, 10, 11 and 20.

- 43) Action to allow deferment of payments on disaster assistance loans taken out after the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008 (SBA, Small Business Grant and Loan programs).**

LRA Assignment – The LRA has discussed this and will report back to the Task Force.

- 44) Request the Task Force to consider creation of shrimp cooperatives in the state of Louisiana.**

SeaGrant Assignment – LSU SeaGrant has discussed this and will report back to the Task Force

- 45) A proactive approach to disaster assistance that would disburse funds to the industry immediately after a storm.**

The LDWF has developed a suggested approach for Task Force consideration that would rely on a pre-funded program that would require applicants to pre-qualify for disaster assistance payments.

- 46) Branding of wild-caught Louisiana shrimp.**

See Number 42. This recommendation is being addressed through Numbers 6, 10, 11 and 20.

- 47) Speed up distribution of awards and payments under the fisheries assistance programs.**

LDWF will continue to provide updated reports on the status of all fisheries disaster assistance programs and payments at Task Force meetings.

- 48) Request the Task Force to examine TAA program eligibility and notification and distribution of applications to the industry.**

See Number 71. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel Recommendations

- **October 26, 2009**

49) Recommend that the Task Force support legislation adding a shrimp harvester to the Governor's Coastal Protection and Restoration Advisory Council.

The Task Force tabled action on this recommendation until the December 7 meeting and at that meeting suggested requesting a representative from the Coastal Protection and Restoration AP appear to speak about this at a future meeting

50) Recommend that the Task Force support naming a shrimp harvester as a representative to the Davis Pond and Caernarvon Advisory Committees.

The Task Force tabled action on this recommendation until the December 7 meeting.

51) That any remaining fisheries disaster assistance funds be utilized for disaster assistance payments to qualifying participants with special attention to individuals that failed to qualify for previous programs.

The Task Force suggested combining this recommendation into LDWF status updates on federal fisheries disaster assistance programs and payments.

52) Identify funding sources in support of renewing the anti-dumping petition for Louisiana shrimpers and payback money that shrimp organizations have already paid to protect Louisiana shrimpers.

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

Shrimp Processor Advisory Panel Recommendations

- **September 21, 2009**

53) Assistance from the State in allocating collected and future collected shrimp tariff funds back to the domestic shrimp industry.

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

54) Legislation to strengthen country of origin labeling by including food service establishments.

See Numbers 39 and 40. This recommendation is being addressed through Number 15.

55) Request an investigation by the Attorney General's Office into a conflict of interest

of the members of the Shrimp Harvesters Advisory Panel that have signed on to a potential lawsuit.

Task Force moved to end discussion on this recommendation.

- 56) Request and Attorney General's opinion whether any processor and all processors can stop doing business with any and all shrimp harvesters which have signed a contingency with any law firm for the potential allegations against processors for any claims including, but not limited to, price fixing and/or unfair trade practices.**

Task Force moved to end discussion on this recommendation

- 57) Create a separate shrimp promotion and marketing board devoted to domestic shrimp promotion.**

See Number 14. This recommendation is being addressed through Number 14.

- 58) Legislation to increase the shrimp excise tax by 25 cents per barrel to devote to domestic promotion and marketing.**

See Number 19. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 59) Request that LDWF devote the shrimp share of unspent third supplemental hurricane disaster assistance money to domestic shrimp promotion and marketing.**

This recommendation is addressed through Number 18.

Shrimp Processor Advisory Panel Recommendations

- **October 26, 2009**

- 60) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation by the Department of Commerce and Customs and Border Protection to determine if imported shrimp from these countries actually originate from countries subject to antidumping orders and to vigorously pursue anti-circumvention remedies, including retroactive collection of duties that would have been paid and prohibition of imports from countries that are complicit in transshipment.**

See Number 31. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 61) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation into under collection by Customs and Border Protection, immediately address and seek collection of duties,**

and legislatively develop methods to permanently address under collection of antidumping duties.

See Number 30. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 62) Ask the task force to request from the Governor and our legislature a specific allocation of funds to pay for the legal costs of defending the shrimp antidumping orders at the ITC sunset reviews scheduled for February, 2010. The current estimate of the legal cost is \$250,000.00. Because these orders are also important to the other Gulf South shrimp harvesters and shrimp processors, we ask the task force to request that the Governor and our legislature seek contributions to the legal fund from their colleagues in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.**

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 63) Ask the task force to request the Governor, our legislature and our Attorney General to use all means necessary to seek the additional \$268,000.00 owed to the State of Louisiana and for an accounting of any money already sent to the state. We further urge the task force to allocate any and all such funds to pay for the legal costs of defending the shrimp antidumping orders.**

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 64) Ask the task force to request that our federal delegation begin work on a WTO-compliant law that would allow antidumping duties collected after October, 2007 to be used for the assistance of the domestic industries directly impacted by the dumped imports.**

See Number 27. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 65) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, Customs and Border Protection and any other agency with jurisdiction over this issue, into the safety of imported shrimp. To the extent testing shows problems that pose a risk to the health of our domestic consumers, appropriate SPS measures should be implemented to block imports of shrimp from those countries.**

See Numbers 28, 29, 32, 34 and 36. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 66) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand that Customs and Border Protection / implement the provisions of 19 U.S.C. §1307 and block shrimp imported from**

Thailand and any other country that is using child or forced labor to produce the product.

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 67) Ask the task force to request from the Governor and our legislature a specific allocation of funds to pay for the legal costs of investigating whether a Section 201 trade remedy may be appropriate on imported shrimp. The current estimate of the legal cost for this investigation and an appropriate recommendation and report is \$30,000.00.**

This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 68) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our federal delegation request expanded COOL requirements to include food service establishments under the current law or under a new law.**

See Numbers 39, 40 and 54. This recommendation has not been considered by the Task Force.

- 69) Ask the task force to work with all relevant state agencies to increase the speed of processing applications and distributions of fisheries disaster assistance funds to all eligible applicants.**

See Number 47. LDWF will continue to provide updated reports on the status of all fisheries disaster assistance programs and payments at Task Force meetings.

- 70) Ask the task force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our federal delegation work on forgiveness and/or deferral of payments on disaster loans in light of the current economic hardship facing the shrimp industry.**

See Number 43. The Louisiana Recovery Authority is examining this and will report back to the Task Force.

- 71) Ask the task force and the LA workforce commission representative to expedite efforts to file all necessary applications for individual and/or community-wide TAA assistance.**

See Number 48. This LA Workforce Commission is examining this and will report back to the Task Force.

- 72) Ask the task force to continue to discuss the parameters of the voluntary certification program and once agreed upon, that the task force seek all necessary funding from the Governor, our legislature or from any other available source. We further urge the task force to consider the recommendation of increasing the shrimp**

excise tax by at least 25 cents per barrel to devote to domestic promotion and marketing.

See Numbers 42 and 58. This recommendation is being addressed through Shrimp Numbers 6, 10, 11, 16 and 20.

- 73) Ask the task force to work with the Governor, our legislature and the Louisiana Restaurant Association to develop a program requiring labeling of seafood to both encourage consumption of domestic seafood and obtain a higher price on our product.**

See Numbers 39 and 40. This recommendation is being addressed through Number 15.

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **December 7, 2009**

- 74) That the recommendations from the LA Shrimp Harvester and Processor Advisory Panels which require federal level action or legislation be considered by the Task Force and that LDAF take the lead in initiating any necessary action: 30-33, 48, 60, 61, 64-68, and steps to move forward with crop insurance for the industry.**

- 30) Contact LA congressional delegation and delegation in other domestic shrimp producing states requesting they contact U.S. Customs and urge them to collect all tariff money.
- 31) Contact LA congressional delegation and delegation in other domestic shrimp producing states requesting them to urge U.S. Commerce to investigate and prosecute companies found guilty of shipping through non-tariff countries.
- 32) Request assistance from federal authorities to monitor and investigate the volume and potential health risks of imported shrimp entering the country.
- 33) Request the state's congressional delegation to enact federal legislation to develop a subsidy program for domestic shrimp producers.
- 48) Request the Task Force to examine TAA program eligibility and notification and distribution of applications to the industry.
- 60) Ask the Task Force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation by the Department of Commerce and Customs and Border Protection to determine if imported shrimp from these countries actually originate from countries subject to antidumping orders and to vigorously pursue anti-circumvention remedies, including retroactive collection of duties that would have been paid and prohibition of imports from countries that are complicit in transshipment.
- 61) Ask the Task Force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation into under collection by Customs and Border Protection, immediately address and seek collection of

duties, and legislatively develop methods to permanently address under collection of antidumping duties.

- 64) Ask the Task Force to request that our federal delegation begin work on a WTO-compliant law that would allow antidumping duties collected after October, 2007 to be used for the assistance of the domestic industries directly impacted by the dumped imports.
 - 65) Ask the Task Force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, Customs and Border Protection and any other agency with jurisdiction over this issue, into the safety of imported shrimp. To the extent testing shows problems that pose a risk to the health of our domestic consumers, appropriate SPS measures should be implemented to block imports of shrimp from those countries.
 - 66) Ask the Task Force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our entire federal delegation immediately demand that Customs and Border Protection / implement the provisions of 19 U.S.c. §1307 and block shrimp imported from Thailand and any other country that is using child or forced labor to produce the product.
 - 67) Ask the Task Force to request from the Governor and our legislature a specific allocation of funds to pay for the legal costs of investigating whether a Section 201 trade remedy may be appropriate on imported shrimp. The current estimate of the legal cost for this investigation and an appropriate recommendation and report is \$30,000.00.
 - 68) Ask the Task Force to request that the Governor, our legislature and our federal Delegation request expanded COOL requirements to include food service establishments under the current law or under a new law.
- 75) That the recommendations received from the LA Shrimp Harvesters and Processor Advisory Panels which require state level action or legislation be considered by the Task Force and that LDWF take the lead in initiating any necessary action: 52, 53, 62, and 63.**
- 52) Identify funding sources in support of renewing the anti-dumping petition for Louisiana shrimpers and payback money that shrimp organizations have already paid to protect Louisiana shrimpers.
 - 53) Assistance from the State in allocating collected and future collected shrimp tariff funds back to the domestic shrimp industry.
 - 62) Ask the Task Force to request from the Governor and our legislature a specific allocation of funds to pay for the legal costs of defending the shrimp antidumping orders at the ITC sunset reviews scheduled for February, 2010. The current estimate of the legal cost is \$250,000.00. Because these orders are also important to the other Gulf South shrimp harvesters and shrimp processors, we ask the Task Force to request that the Governor and our legislature seek contributions to the legal fund from their colleagues in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.
 - 63) Ask the Task Force to request the Governor, our legislature and our Attorney

General to use all means necessary to seek the additional \$268,000.00 owed to the State of Louisiana and for an accounting of any money already sent to the state. We further urge the Task Force to allocate any and all such funds to pay for the legal costs of defending the shrimp antidumping orders.

76) That the recommendation from the LA shrimp harvester and processor advisory panels be considered by the Task Force and that the LWC take the lead in initiating any necessary action (71).

71) Ask the Task Force and the LA workforce commission representative to expedite efforts to file all necessary applications for individual and/or community-wide TAA assistance.

Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel Recommendations:

- **January 6, 2010**

77) Request that a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) enforcement representative, with permission from the Southeast Regional Director, be included as member in the draft Shrimp Task Force Bill.

See numbers 14 and 57, however, the Southeast Regional Director has requested that a NMFS representative not be included as a member of the new Shrimp Task Force. The draft bill does not include a member representing the NMFS.

78) Remove language from the draft Shrimp Task Force Bill naming a Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) representative's seat.

See numbers 14, 57 and 77. This language has been removed in the draft bill.

79) Substitute language in the draft Shrimp Task Force Bill requiring participants to be certified commercial fisherman.

See numbers 14, 57, 77 and 78. New language requiring shrimp fishermen who serve on the task force to be certified commercial fishermen has been inserted into the draft bill.

80) To name Ronnie Anderson as the alternative Shrimp Harvester Advisory Panel representative to the Shrimp Task Force.

Shrimp Task Force Motions:

- **January 6, 2010**

81) Receive all of the Harvester's recommendations for consideration.

The Task Force continues an ongoing review of these recommendations.

82) That the Task Force ascertains what legal documentation exists regarding SSA's representation of the State and the industry and any settlement agreements related thereto.

The Attorney General's Office is examining this.

83) Request a paid membership list from the Southern Shrimp Alliance, Louisiana Shrimp Association, and the American Shrimp Processors Association for informational purposes only.

Letters from LDWF requesting this information have been mailed to these organizations.

84) Draft a letter of support for the Sunset Review of shrimp orders to the International Trade Commission in support of the Louisiana Seafood Industry.

A letter of support from the LDWF has been mailed.

85) For the Department to study and review limited entry license sales programs and affects on the industry as a whole.

The LDWF has met with a university research economist to begin discussing this and is examining possible funding sources.

86) Request that the Seafood Safety Task Force examine Shrimp Task Force recommendations for overlapping complementary action items.

The LDAF is continuing to examine these action items.